

A Sober, yet Jocular ANSWER,

TO

Heraclitus Ridens

THE Intrigues of this Caballistical Whiffler (who calls himself *Heraclitus Ridens*) would be a little opened for more common capacities: The Wisdom of the Ancients (as the Lord *Bao*'s Phrae is,) had two famous Philosophers (above 400 years before Christ) *Democritus*, and *Heraclitus*, of two differing Dispositions; The former always *Laughing* at the *Folly*, the latter always *Weeping* at the *Misery* of *Mankind*: How it comes to pass this Libeller crosseth those two contrary Characters (in giving the Laughing posture to the Weeping Philosopher, &c.) I know not, this is *c. corum de coloribus Judicium*; a blind mans Judgement of colours, either the old mans eyes (both of body and mind) fail him, to judge no better of Colours and Postures, or 'tis one of his usual Seraphick Rodomontado's, to call *Black*, *White*, and *White*, *Black*: Sure I am, he hath yet had little cause to be an *Heraclitus in Weeping Times* and Turns have so gratified him, both for Profit and Honour, unlesis when (not being Parliament Proef,) he absconded; but I presume he hath found such safe Sanctuaries, and noble Nurseries, as to preserve him from any Weeping work. Possibly those *H U E and C R Y S* after him (by Parliamentary Order) might cast him into [Deliquium Animi], an Amazing Swound, but he hath now got some Anti-Parliamentary Cordials (by what means I know not) to revive him again, these prove so *Sovereign*, as not only to set him up upon his Feet (that Old *Towzer* may Bawl and Bark again) but also to mount him on Horse-back, for he most Magisterially menaceth all (who dare offer to Answer his Bawlins) that his Horse Heels [*e. paffani*] shall give them such a Kick, as shall leave them sprawling in the Dirt: oh brave *Roger*, *Bona verba quofo*, I have heard of a *Jack-a-napes* on Horse-back, but never of a *Ban-Dog*, yet would he teach his Antagonists to be so tame, as to let him bite them with his foul Fangs, and they neither defend themselves, nor quarrel with him for so doing, unless it be (as with the man in the Story) for not calmly receiving his Wounds one inch deeper by his Adversaries Weapon: However he would make the World believe, a mighty *Métamorphosis* is made upon him, that he is changed from a weeping *Heraclitus*, to a laughing *Democritus*, he is now got upon his merry pin, will Tune his Fiddle to the Times, and will not only laugh himself fat, but laughs Lords and Commons, and all his Opposers (whom he points at in his Pamphlet) to Scorn and Derision: yea, he resolves to remove himself now so far from all sadness, that he will forget and forsake all seriousness: Now he is become a new *London Cryer*, shabbily bawling out, *A pennywyrth of Wit for a Penny*, and he warrants his Wit to be an excellent Pennyworth, whereas (indeed) 'tis but a wild and scurilous Tantivy Harangue, and which none but Children and Fools (who take Counters for Gold) will be fond of to purchase; 'tis all but the frothy exuberancy of his own wanton and wicked Brain, this only can be pleaded for a little palliation, Alas, he is now in his Dotage, and his furious riding Post had need a little to excuse him from his gross mistakes, for he that rideth Post (without making due pauses) through Cities and Countries, can never make a distinct Description of them: I do think this fierce Driver may ride Break-neck at last; Did ever any laugh such Honourable Lords and Commons to Scorn, and Prosper? Nay, they certainly at long-run have perished, yet 'tis no less than those *Principes Populi*, Princes of the

Archer

People (as a Parliament is well called) are the principal mark this Arch-Archer dare shoot at, and the shining object this bawling Ban-dog dare bark at in all his 27 quarrelling Queries, which he questeth out of his foul mouth; those all he calleth upon, and commandeth them to enter, as if he were that mad Comedian, who in his Acting a Play, cryed out, Enter *Jeronimus*, 2 Tinkers and a Devil, only overdoing him in this, that he had but 2 Tinkers to enter, but *Towzer* hath 27, and such Tinkers all, as will certainly make more holes than they will mend, should his Politicks (proposed in his Queries) be duly prosecuted. This might easily be demonstrated, in giving a distinct Answer to every Query, which would rather require a Volume, than be comprised in this narrow compass. You know the Proverb, a Fool may ask more Questions in half an hour, (and so in half a sheet) than a Wise man can Answer in many hours, or in many sheets.

But, I am thinking *Hodge* may prove an *He. inaprouute*, of the *Ep. scene* Gender, being so pregnant of Queries, Doubts and Scruples, whereof (he telis us) he bath, besides his 16, a great many more hating forth to be whelp'd, yea, to hatty, that they must be check'd and charg'd to stay, till the World (as their Midwife) be ready to receive them: this brave teeming *Towzer* no sooner whelps one litter (no less than 16, at a time) but immediatly big-bellied again with more, yea a Conception of a latter litter at the birth of the former: but the best of it is, this hasty Bitch brings forth blind whelps, that are not able to behold the light, such are all his Queries, not only 9 day, but everlastinglly blind: this w^{ll} also this Bitch grows more barren by old age, &c. for the first Litter was 16, the 2d but 11, (tis pity they were not an even dozen) all bech'd out of his foul mouth: by this proportion it may be supposed, every Birth may be less and less, till Barenness follow to dry up and dwindle away both his Jests and his Earnefts: but was it not an oversight in *Hodge*, not to make his double Litter even 31, then (with children) it had been a right *Hister*: you know a Knave and 21 will win all: Altho it seems overbold Presumption to encounter his many and multiplying Queries, not only because some of them have at prelent a [Noli me tangere] upon them, but also because they resemble that overgrown Monster [*Hidra*] wherewith *Hercules* encountered, which had many (it may be 27) heads, the exact number of his Queries at a Thrifts: and when one head was cut off by *Hercules*, presently another springs up in its place, so that he knew not when he shou'd have done in hacking off heads to readily supply'd: the like difficulty may be expected here, for suppose all his 27 Heads or Queries were cut off, unles his own Head were cut off too, that's too noble for such a Cur, he hath a great many more crowding in for relief, all breed out of his (as *Minerva* was of *Jove's*) adle Brain.

However, seeing to Answ^r Queries by Queries is Canonical, *Marsh.* 23. 23. 35. 41. if that last Verse be not Apocryphal, because of its offensiveness (to him) in the number. I shall at present propose these 13 here Marshalled and set in Battel array against his 27, which may possibly preponderate them, and put them all to a shameful rout, by a wife confederate.

I. Whether if *Noll's* self could come again (as they talk his *Ghoſt* is) and be Knighted for some good Service, *Hodge* would not be Ambitious to become his Arch-Fidler again.

II. Whether, should a Popish Successor come to the Crown, *Hodge* would not Dance (as well as Fiddle) a Popish Jigg.

III. Whether, were his Padlock upon the Press as formerly, he would not License (if no more) Popish Books, as ('tis said) he did *Quevedo's* Visitations, &c. and suppress (as he bath done) such that be truly Protestant.

IV. Whether *Hodge* be not wilfully blind, that will see no difference betwixt Abhorters of the setting of a Parliament, and the Abhorters of pernicious Council for breaking up Parliaments, which is the just Abhorrence of the 16 Lords, Loyally expressed in their Petition.

V. Whether Petitioning (which he grants is the undoubted Right of the Subject) consist not with 1 Thes. 4. 11. which indeed bids us Study to be Quiet, that is in the German Tongue, to be Rogers, but not such whiffling Rogers as be, omnium horarum Hemo, who can Court an *Uſurper* as well as the Royal Racer, nor to be French Peasants, or *Issachard Asses*, to couch under every Burden without complaint.

VI. Whether Subjects Petitioning in a peaceable manner to secure themselves from Slavery and Poverty, be not a Doing their own busines, seeing all are concerned in Liberty and Property (bis 2 Bigears) as Men and as Christians.

VII. Whether his Royal Maxim bold universal-ly true, seeing there have been, are, and may be many Kings, where never were, and possibly never will

be any Bishops; and if it be true that Kings create Bishops, 'tis as true the Creator is before, and may be without his Creatures, &c.

VIII. Whether the perswasing of the long Parliament were the true and sole cause of the late Civil uncivil Wars (as *Hodge* saith) and not rather such Parastical Courts Pensioners and pick shanks (as he) who divided the King from his Parliament.

IX. Whether Pensioners and Land Frigates be not more likely to be his 2 Daughters of the Horse-leech (that cry Give, Give, as so many Jack Daws) than Presbyterians and Independants, who are turned out of Office & Beneficio, having nothing Granted them out of the publick Revenue, but live upon Charity.

X. Whether *Hodge* bath not his Pension of an 100 Guineys every New Years day (if not more) continued for his Scribbling in Defence of Pensioners, and in Opposition to Petitioners, and all the Noble Affereors of the Protestant Religion.

XI. Whether it were not more practical prudence for him to lay aside his scribbling bad, and write better, that his good Deeds may weigh against his evil, that he may Cancell out that bitter Hand writing of Articles, whereon he stands Impeached in Parliament.

XII. Whether the Laughter of this Heraclitus may not be short, and his Ridens turned into Lugens, as it ought to be, for Heraclitus was never by any Schollars called Ridens, but always Lugens, until this doting Dr. Dunce gave him this incongruous Denomination.

XIII. Whether such a sorry whiffler be qualified to be Lord Chancellor of the Grand Council of the Land, and whether *Hodge's* folly be fit to outw^re the Wisdom of the whole Nation, and whether those excellens Speeches and Resolous (of so many brave Lords and Commons) may not have a lasting Honourable Record, when the mouth of this bawling Ban-dog shall be Rop'd from further Barking, and a stigmatizing Brand be set upon him for ever.